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### Correction to Case professor of the year ward returns to UM

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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Correction to Case professor of the year ward returns to UM" (1998). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 15669.  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Oct. 8, 1998

**CORRECTION:** The titles of two people quoted in the earlier version of this release have changed. Kathleen Miller has retired and is now former associate dean of the School of Education, and Sharon Dinkel Uhlig has been promoted to associate dean of the School of Education. Please use this corrected version of the release.

**Contact:** Annie Sondag, HHP professor, (406) 243-5215.

### **CASE PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR AWARD RETURNS TO UM**

#### **MISSOULA--**

Annie Sondag, a professor of health and human performance at The University of Montana-Missoula, has won the 1998 Montana Professor of the Year Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

Her win brings the coveted CASE award back to UM for the first time since Regents Professor Paul Lauren won it in 1991.

Sondag was chosen from a field of five Montana nominees in recognition of her exceptional service to her profession as a health educator, researcher and participant on a range of curricular and policy-making committees in the state and region.

"Annie Sondag is an individual of uncommon commitment and talent," said health and human performance Professor Sharon Dinkel Uhlig, associate dean of the School of Education. Uhlig said Sondag is an accomplished scholar and devoted public servant with enviable teaching abilities.

"In her first four years at The University of Montana, 725 students provided ratings that averaged 1.20 on a scale of one to five -- one being the highest," Uhlig said.



Sondag joined the UM faculty in 1993, hired into a department where health was considered extremely important but was given only "lip service," said Kathleen Miller, former associate dean of the School of Education.

"Annie resurrected courses that were on the books and proposed new courses that were necessary to meet accreditation standards," Miller said. "Her influence was so dramatic that the next available line in the health and human performance department was dedicated to health."

At state and regional levels, Sondag is considered one of the elite health educators in Montana. She represented health education at the Health Enhancement Summit Conference in 1996, a conference that occurs every five years and sets standards for state agencies and organizations concerning the health needs of young children and adolescents. She was one of four authors of "Health Enhancement: Montana and National Standards," which now serves as the guiding document for all Montana K-12 school curriculum development.

"I consider Annie as one of our health education leaders in Montana," said Spencer Sartorius, administrator of the Health Enhancement and Safety Division at the state's Office of Public Instruction. She is a credit to her department, UM, the state, the region and the profession, he said.

Sondag began her post-secondary education in liberal arts at Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill. She later transferred to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, where she earned an associate of arts degree in dental hygiene, a bachelor's degree in vocational education, a master's in rehabilitation counseling and a doctorate in health education. She joined the UM faculty after teaching for three years at her alma mater.



CASE is an international association of colleges, universities and independent elementary and secondary schools that focuses on alumni relations, communications and fund raising. CASE established the Professors of the Year program in 1981 and administers it with the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and various higher education associations. This year the foundation announced winners in 48 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

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Local, dailies. Photos available upon request.

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